Purchase of low quality spares for planes

1097. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been purchasing low quality spares for its planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the purchase of low quality spares have caused mishaps/crash of a number of fighter planes; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by Government to purchase only good quality spares *etc.* for the fighter planes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) No, Sir. It is not correct that India has been purchasing low quality spares for the IAF aircraft. In fact, spares are procured from the Original Equipment Manufacturers/Vendors, duly authorised by the Government of the country of origin.

MIG upgradation programme

1098. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for MIG upgradation programme, one contract concluded in March, 1996 explicitly stipulated that armament and associated equipment would be new, unused and of current production;

(b) whether the manufacturer did supply 2000 weapons worth Rs. 7.06 crore in December, 1998 which were manufactured in May, 1986 with propellant that was Eleven years old;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to get these weapons replaced with new ones?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.